



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lgsc.lacounty.gov>**

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

9:30 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-4783)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. (14-3909)

Chairperson Mark Burman called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

**2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Ana Ponce joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.**

Present: Chairperson Mark Burman, 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, Commissioner Jules Bagneris III, Commissioner Azita Karimkhany Fatheree, Commissioner Jesse Gabriel, Commissioner Laurence M. Kaplan, Commissioner Ana Ponce, and Commissioner Barry Waite

Absent: Commissioner Rodrigo Guerra Jr. and Commissioner Andrew Westall

Excused: 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta and Commissioner Andrew Friedman

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the Minutes of September 9, 2014. (14-4015)

On motion of 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, seconded by Commissioner Barry Waite, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Chairperson's Report for the month of October 2104. (14-4438)

Chairperson Burman introduced new Commissioner Ana Ponce, appointed by the City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

3. Staff Report for the month of October 2014. (14-4437)

There was no report given.

III. PRESENTATIONS

4. Continued discussion on Forensic Research Center "Project" within Los Angeles County. (14-3357)

Prior to his report, Mr. Ed Winter, Assistant Chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner, noted the Department has considered renaming the "Body Farm Project" as the "Forensic Research Center". In his update report, he stated the University of Southern California, the University of California Los Angeles and Cal State Los Angeles Anthropology Departments have agreed to support the program once implemented by the County. The universities will collaborate with the County which includes providing financial support. He hopes to have a financial report available for the November 4, 2014 meeting of costs associated in running the program.

Mr. Winter introduced Ms. Karina Peck, Human Remains Detection (HRD) K-9 Handler, County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner. Ms. Peck added she brought Indiana "Indy" Bones, the HRD K-9 dog to meet the Commission after her presentation. Chairperson Burman reiterated the importance of the HRD K-9 Dog is the only dog trained for the entire Los Angeles County. The dog has 1-2 years left to provide HRD service and another dog will be needed to replace Indy.

Chairperson Burman thanked Mr. Winter and Ms. Peck for their informative presentation and requested that the Department include with their report in November 4, 2014, additional information regarding the importance of creating a local Forensic Research Center and HRD K-9 Training Facility.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Update report from Commissioner Kaplan on improving the County's regional approach to tourism promotion and services by possibly establishing a regional tourism authority. (14-2607)

Commissioner Kaplan provided a brief overview of a study concept from the Los Angeles 2020 Commission on improving the County's regional approach to tourism, with findings that could possibly be presented to the Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles. He provided the following three models for the Commission to consider:

- **A Metro (MTA) Model Regional Tourism Authority that already represent all of the major areas/cities and would combine expertise in tourism, marketing, and hospitality with a global perspective.**
- **A Convening Model consisting of a Regional Tourism agency that would be more of a convener than an authority with statutory regulations.**
- **A New York City Model which combines the public/private sectors to form a corporation which resulted in the creation of a single, full-service; public/private entity tasked with promoting New York to domestic and international travel markets.**

Commissioner Kaplan stated that the Commission is not limited to the above mentioned models. The Commission may discover a more suitable model to submit to the Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles.

Mickey Kantor, Former Secretary of Commerce, thanked the Commission for taking interest in the April 2014 Report of the Los Angeles 2020 Commission. The report suggests establishing a Regional Tourism Authority in Los Angeles County. He stated that he would like to see the County take the leadership role in bringing the people together where it can make a difference. He added the regional authorities located abroad have succeeded well and it would be easy to establish an Authority in Los Angeles County since it is already branded because of Hollywood, the beaches and other local attractions. Mr. Kantor urged the Commission to advocate to the Board of Supervisors, to establish an Authority, coordinate with the cities, advertise in other Countries and compete with other States to increase tourism. He concluded that Hawaii established a regional tourism authority and from 1998 to 2012, tourism there has improved 300% and has received \$200 million in sales tax.

Commissioner Waite noted hotels pay a small percentage of its profit to the City of Carson in order to support local tourism. Commissioner Talamantes provided an overview of how the city of Burbank promotes tourism.

During discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jules Bagneris, seconded by Commissioner Barry Waite and duly carried by the following vote, the Commission to support a regional tourism authority and include a Commission report to the Board of Supervisors of recommendations to create an Authority:

Ayes: 6 - Chairperson Mark Burman, 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, Commissioner Jules Bagneris III, Commissioner Jesse Gabriel, Commissioner Laurence M. Kaplan and Commissioner Barry Waite

Noes: 1 - Commissioner Azita Karimkhany Fatheree

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Rodrigo Guerra Jr. and Commissioner Andrew Westall

Excused: 2 - 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta and Commissioner Andrew Friedman

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

After further discussion, Commissioner Fatheree expressed concerns about supporting an Authority without first reading the Los Angeles 2020 Commission Report. Former Secretary Kantor suggested that the Commission obtain a copy of the 2012 Economic Impact of Los Angeles County Visitor Spending for additional information prior to presenting to the Board the establishment of an Authority.

Therefore, Commissioner Kaplan agreed to provide a document with the major points to assist in structuring the Commission's discussion and the possible guests to invite to present at a future meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

6. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4439)

No matters were posted.

Public Comment

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4440)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

8. Adjournment for the meeting of October 7, 2014. (14-3940)

On motion of Commissioner Jesse Gabriel, seconded by Commissioner Barry Waite, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.